making organs in May 1997, to be concluded as a bilateral undertaking between the Agency and those Non-Nuclear Weapon States which are parties to its full scope safeguards agreements. Such a Model Protocol is meant to be obligatory on those Non-Nuclear Weapon States that are parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or other similar international agreements, which are not applicable to India.

Indo-US Meting on Nuclear Issue

2657. SHRI KHAN GUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US rr eeting on nuclear issue is proposed to be held in December 2001; and

(b) if so, the main .i enda of the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASW ANT SINGH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's Preparedness in view of Missile threat

2658. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China is not our naturalally, we need long-range missiles : RSS" published in the Asian Age on the 27th October, 2001;

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report, particularly, the need to acquire nuclear weapons capability and to build up efficient nuclear weaponry for self-defence ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government constantly reviews all developments and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of threats to security.